

Organ Sonata Op. 65 #6 in d minor (*Our father Who Art in Heaven*)

I Choral • II Andante sostenuto • III Allegro molto • IV Fuga:

Sostenuto e legato • V Finale: Andante

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Mendelssohn's prosperous and intellectual Jewish family moved to Berlin in 1811, leaving Hamburg in disguise fearing French revenge for their role in breaking Napoleon's blockade. They changed their name to Bartoldy and embraced christianity. Some modern scholars have devoted considerable energy to demonstrate either that Mendelssohn was deeply sympathetic to his ancestors' Jewish beliefs, or that he was hostile to this and sincere in his Christian beliefs. Mendelssohn revived interest in J. S. Bach in Germany and one hundred nine years after Handel wrote his first set of six organ concerti, Felix Mendelssohn created an edition of Bach's organ chorales and simultaneously published his own six organ sonatas. Mendelssohn's 'sonatas' were more like Bach's suites of dances than the sonatas of his contemporaries.



German postage stamp
issued on the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth